

MATHEMATICS

MEASURE-THEORETICAL INVESTIGATIONS CONCERNING CONTINUED FRACTIONS

BY

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I. Introduction

A. Let θ be a *real* number ($0 < \theta < 1$).

We expand θ in the continued fraction:

$$(1) \quad \theta = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots\} = \frac{1}{a_1 + \frac{1}{a_2 + \frac{1}{a_3 + \dots}}}$$

with integer partial quotients $a_n \geq 1$.

For a *rational* θ we have uniquely:

$$(2) \quad \theta = \{a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_N\} \quad (N \geq 1; a_N \geq 2).$$

In this case we shall call θ a *rational of order N* and we define:

$$(2a) \quad \begin{cases} \theta_0 = \theta, \theta_1 = \{a_2, a_3, \dots, a_N\}, \theta_2 = \{a_3, a_4, \dots, a_N\}, \dots, \\ \theta_{N-1} = \{a_N\}, \theta_{N+v} = 0 \quad (v = 0, 1, 2, \dots). \end{cases}$$

For an *irrational* θ we define:

$$(2b) \quad \theta_0 = \theta \text{ and } \theta_n = \{a_{n+1}, a_{n+2}, a_{n+3}, \dots\} \quad (n \geq 1).$$

It is clear that by (2a, b) θ_n ($n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$) is defined as a function of θ on $0 < \theta < 1$. If we define:

$$(2c) \quad \theta_n = 0 \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \dots) \text{ for } \theta = 0 \text{ and } \theta = 1$$

by (2a, b, c) θ_n as a function of θ is defined on $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$.

For $n \geq 0$ and $\theta_n \neq 0$, because of the relation

$$(3) \quad \theta_n = \frac{1}{a_{n+1} + \theta_{n+1}}$$

we have:

$$(4) \quad \theta_{n+1} = \frac{1}{\theta_n} - \left[\frac{1}{\theta_n} \right]$$

and:

$$(4a) \quad a_{n+1} = \left[\frac{1}{\theta_n} \right].$$

B. Let $f(x)$ be a real function on $0 \leq x \leq 1$. Let D be a division of the interval $\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ with dividing points $x_0 (= 0)$, $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_P (= 1)$. Further put

$$\sigma_p = \sup f(x) - \inf f(x)$$

where both, \sup and \inf , are to be extended over the closed interval $x_p \leq x \leq x_{p+1}$.

Then

$$\varphi(D) = \sum_{p=0}^{P-1} \sigma_p (x_{p+1} - x_p)$$

denotes the "oscillation of $f(x)$ for the division D ".

In our thesis [4] we proved the following lemma:

Lemma I: *Let D_k be the division of $\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ with dividing points*

$$h_0^k (= 0), h_1^k \left(= \frac{1}{2^k} \right), h_2^k \left(= \frac{2}{2^k} \right), \dots, h_{2^k}^k (= 1).$$

Let $f(x)$ be a real function on $0 \leq x \leq 1$, such that for the sequence $\{D_k\}$ of divisions D_k of $\langle 0, 1 \rangle$ the corresponding oscillations satisfy

$$(5) \quad \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \varphi(D_k) < \infty.$$

Then for any couple of integers $M \geq 0, N \geq 1$ we have:

$$I \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_0^1 \left\{ \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} \left(f(\theta_n) - \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx \right) \right\}^2 d\theta \leq K_1 N,$$

K_1 being a constant depending only on $f(x)$.

It is not difficult to prove that a function $f(x)$ which satisfies the condition (5), also satisfies the condition (5) for each sequence $\{D_k'\}$ of arbitrary divisions D_k' such that the distance between two successive dividing points of D_k' does not exceed $1/2^k$.

C. In our thesis we gave several applications of lemma I, which we shall not repeat here. New investigations taught us that the conditions imposed upon $f(x)$ in lemma I can be chosen somewhat weaker. In this note we shall give a proof of the lemma with the new conditions (in II) and give some new applications (in III). All applications given in the thesis concern bounded functions $f(x)$. Lemma II enables us to consider also other functions, e.g. $\log x$ ($0 < x \leq 1$). One of the new applications delivers a refinement of a well-known result, due to A. KHINTCHINE [2].

After the appearance of the thesis our attention was drawn to the work of C. RYLL-NARDZEWSKI [3], who investigated the numbers θ_n belonging to the continued fraction θ by means of the individual ergodic

theorem. His methods and results are different from ours. Whereas he proves the relation

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f(\theta_n) \rightarrow \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx$$

for all $f(x) \in L$, we, for much narrower classes of functions $f(x)$, derive estimates for the difference

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f(\theta_n) - \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx.$$

For the meaning of the main notations used in the sequel we refer to our thesis [4].

II. Let $f(x)$ be a real function defined on the interval $0 < x \leq 1$. Let D_k be a division of $(0, 1]$ with the dividing points

$$h_1^k \left(= \frac{1}{2^k} \right), \quad h_2^k \left(= \frac{2}{2^k} \right), \quad h_3^k \left(= \frac{3}{2^k} \right), \dots, h_{2^k}^k (= 1).$$

Further put

$$\sigma_p = \sup f(x) - \inf f(x) \quad (1 \leq p \leq 2^k - 1)$$

where both, sup and inf, are to be extended over the closed interval $x_p \leq x \leq x_{p+1}$.

Then:

$$(6) \quad \varphi(D_k) = \sum_{p=1}^{2^k-1} \sigma_p (x_{p+1} - x_p)$$

we shall call the oscillation for the division D_k of the function $f(x)$ defined on $(0, 1]$.

Now we can prove the following lemma:

Lemma II: *Let $f(x)$ be a non-negative (or non-positive) function defined on the interval $0 < x \leq 1$, such that for two positive constants β and K*

$$|f(x)| \leq \frac{K}{x^{1-\beta}}.$$

Further let for the sequence $\{D_k\}$ of divisions D_k of the interval $(0, 1]$ the corresponding oscillations (6) satisfy

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \varphi(D_k) < \infty.$$

Then for any couple of integers $M \geq 0$, $N \geq 1$ we have:

$$I \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_0^1 \left\{ \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} \left(f(\theta_n) - \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx \right) \right\}^2 d\theta \leq K_2 \cdot N$$

K_2 being a constant only depending on $f(x)$.

Remark: Our proof involves the existence of I as a Lebesgue-integral.

Proof of lemma II.

In this article the numbers $\delta_1, \delta_2, \dots$, are real numbers with $|\delta_k| \leq 1$ ($k=1, 2, \dots$).

A. Consider the case that $f(x) \geq 0$.

1. We note that from the conditions of lemma II it follows that

$$\int_0^1 f(x) dx, \int_0^1 f^2(x) dx, \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx \text{ and } \int_0^1 \frac{f^2(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx$$

exist as (im)proper Riemann integrals.

2. Put:

$$(7) \quad \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx = P.$$

Then:

$$(8) \quad \int_0^1 f(x) dx \leq 2P.$$

Now we shall prove that $f(\theta_n) \in L^2$. Then obviously

$$(9) \quad I = \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} \sum_{m=M+1}^{M+N} \left\{ \int_0^1 f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta - P \int_0^1 f(\theta_n) d\theta - P \int_0^1 f(\theta_m) d\theta + P^2 \right\}$$

exists as a Lebesgue integral. In order to study $\int_0^1 f(\theta_n) d\theta$, $\int_0^1 f^2(\theta_n) d\theta$ and $\int_0^1 f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta$ we define a sequence of functions $f_q(x)$ ($q=1, 2, 3, \dots$) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} f_q(x) &\equiv f(x) \text{ for } 1/q \leq x \leq 1 \\ f_q(x) &= 0 \text{ for } 0 \leq x < 1/q \quad (q=1, 2, 3, \dots). \end{aligned}$$

From the conditions imposed upon $f(x)$ it follows that, for every positive integer q , $f_q(x)$ is R -integrable on $0 \leq x \leq 1$ and therefore (by [4]; Lemma X) that $f_q(\theta_n(\theta))$ is R -integrable on $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$. Defining

$$m(x) = mV\{\theta; \theta_n \leq x\}$$

we get (as we proved in [4]; p. 34-35)

$$\int_0^1 f_q(\theta_n) d\theta = \int_0^1 f_q(x) \frac{dm(x)}{dx} dx = \int_{1/q}^1 f(x) \frac{dm(x)}{dx} dx.$$

Now $f_1(\theta_n), f_2(\theta_n), f_3(\theta_n), \dots$ is a non-decreasing sequence of non-negative L -integrable functions with the limit $f(\theta_n)$ for all θ ($0 \leq \theta \leq 1$) except a set with measure zero. According to a convergence theorem for monotone sequences (cf. e.g. E. C. TITCHMARSH: The theory of functions; 10.82), as

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^1 f_q(\theta_n) d\theta = \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \int_{1/q}^1 f(x) \frac{dm(x)}{dx} dx = \int_0^1 f(x) \frac{dm(x)}{dx} dx$$

the function $f(\theta_n)$ is L -integrable on $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ and (Cf. [4]; (33))

$$(10) \quad \left\{ \int_0^1 f(\theta_n) d\theta = \int_0^1 f(x) \frac{dm(x)}{dx} dx = \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx + \int_0^1 f(x) \delta_1 A e^{-\alpha \sqrt{n}} dx = \right. \\ \left. = P + \delta_2 2AP e^{-\alpha \sqrt{n}}. \right.$$

Therefore:

$$(11) \quad - \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} \sum_{m=M+1}^{M+N} P \int_0^1 f(\theta_n) d\theta = - \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} \sum_{m=M+1}^{M+N} P^2 + 2\delta_3 AP^2 QN$$

$$\text{with } Q = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-\alpha \sqrt{n}}.$$

In the same way we get:

$$(12) \quad - \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} \sum_{m=M+1}^{M+N} P \int_0^1 f(\theta_m) d\theta = - \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} \sum_{m=M+1}^{M+N} P^2 + 2\delta_4 AP^2 QN.$$

3. If we put:

$$(13) \quad \int_0^1 \frac{f^2(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx = \bar{P}$$

we have:

$$(14) \quad \int_0^1 f^2(x) dx \leq 2\bar{P}.$$

Now, as from the conditions imposed upon $f(x)$ it follows that the functions $f_1(\theta_n), f_2(\theta_n), f_3(\theta_n), \dots$ are L^2 -integrable, in a similar manner as we proved (10), we find that $f(\theta_n)$ is L^2 -integrable on $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ and

$$(15) \quad \int_0^1 f^2(\theta_n) d\theta = \int_0^1 f^2(x) \frac{dm(x)}{dx} dx = \bar{P} + 2\delta_5 A \bar{P} e^{-\alpha \sqrt{n}}.$$

Hence:

$$(16) \quad \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} \int_0^1 f^2(\theta_n) d\theta = \bar{P}N + 2\delta_6 A \bar{P}Q.$$

Further we have:

$$(17) \quad \left\{ \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} \sum_{m=M+1}^{M+N} \int_0^1 f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta = \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} \int_0^1 f^2(\theta_n) d\theta + \right. \\ \left. + 2 \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N-1} \sum_{\substack{m=M+2 \\ m > n}}^{M+N} \int_0^1 f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta. \right.$$

In order to estimate

$$\sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N-1} \sum_{\substack{m=M+2 \\ m > n}}^{M+N} \int_0^1 f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta$$

we define:

$$(18) \quad k = [\tfrac{1}{2}(m-n)] + 1$$

and denote by h_t^k and $l_{(D)}^k$ the numbers defined in ([4]; p. 24).

Further we define:

$$(19) \quad \varepsilon_k = h_1^k.$$

4. We shall first give an estimate for $\int\limits_{\substack{0 \\ \theta_n > \varepsilon_k}}^1 f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta$.

If we define:

$$V_{k,t} = V\{\theta; h_t^k < \theta_n \leq h_{t+1}^k\}$$

we get:

$$\int\limits_{\substack{0 \\ \theta_n > \varepsilon_k}}^1 f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta = \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \int\limits_{\substack{0 \\ \theta_n > \varepsilon_k}}^1 f(\theta_n) f_q(\theta_m) d\theta = \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \xi_{k,t} \int_{V_{k,t}} f_q(\theta_m) d\theta$$

with

$$\inf f(x) \leq \xi_{k,t} \leq \sup f(x)$$

where both, \inf and \sup , are to be extended over the closed interval $h_t^k \leq x \leq h_{t+1}^k$.

If we now define: $\bar{m}(x) = mV\{\theta; \theta_n \in V_{k,t}; \theta_m \leq x\}$ in a similar manner as ([4]; (38)–(43)) we get:

$$(20) \quad \left\{ \begin{aligned} & \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \xi_{k,t} \int_{V_{k,t}} f_q(\theta_m) d\theta = \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \xi_{k,t} \int_0^1 f_q(x) \frac{d\bar{m}(x)}{dx} dx = \\ & = \lim_{q \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \xi_{k,t} mV_{k,t} \left(\int_0^1 \frac{f_q(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx + \int_0^1 f_q(x) \delta_7 A e^{-\alpha \sqrt{m-n-k-1}} dx \right) = \\ & = (P + 2\delta_8 A P e^{-\alpha \sqrt{m-n-k-1}}) \left(\sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \xi_{k,t} mV_{k,t} \right) = \\ & = (P + 2\delta_8 A P e^{-\alpha \sqrt{m-n-k-1}}) \left(\int\limits_{\substack{0 \\ \theta_n > \varepsilon_k}}^1 f(\theta_n) d\theta + \varrho_k \right) \end{aligned} \right.$$

(with $|\varrho_k| \leq 2\varphi(k)$).

Now we have:

$$(21) \quad \left\{ \begin{aligned} & \int\limits_{\substack{0 \\ \theta_n > \varepsilon_k}}^1 f(\theta_n) d\theta = \int_{\varepsilon_k}^1 f(x) \frac{dm(x)}{dx} dx = \int_{\varepsilon_k}^1 \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx + \int_{\varepsilon_k}^1 f(x) \delta_9 A e^{-\alpha \sqrt{n}} dx \\ & = P + 2\delta_{10} A P e^{-\alpha \sqrt{n}} - \int_0^{\varepsilon_k} \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx. \end{aligned} \right.$$

As $\varepsilon_k = 1/2^k$ and as $f(x) \leq Kx^{-\frac{1}{2}+\beta}$ we find:

$$(22) \quad \int_0^{\varepsilon_k} \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx \leq \frac{3}{2} \int_0^{\varepsilon_k} f(x) dx \leq \frac{3K}{2^{\frac{1}{2}k}}.$$

Combination of (20), (21) and (22) gives:

$$(23) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \int_0^1 f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta = \\ \theta_n > \varepsilon_k \end{array} \right. = (P + 2\delta_{11}APe^{-\alpha\sqrt{m-n-k-1}}) \left(P + 2\delta_{12}APe^{-\alpha\sqrt{n}} + \varrho_k + \frac{3\delta_{13}K}{2^{1k}} \right).$$

As $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 1/2^{1k}$ is a convergent series, in a similar manner as we deduced ([4]; (47)) here we get:

$$(24) \quad \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N-1} \sum_{\substack{m=M+2 \\ m>n}}^{M+N} \int_0^1 f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta = \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N-1} \sum_{\substack{m=M+2 \\ m>n}}^{M+N} (P^2) + \delta_{14}K_3N$$

K_3 being a constant only depending on $f(x)$.

5. Finally we have to estimate:

$$\sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N-1} \sum_{\substack{m=M+2 \\ m>n}}^{M+N} \int_0^1 f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta.$$

As $\varepsilon_k = 1/2^k$ and as $f(x) \leq Kx^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ we get:

$$(25) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \int_{\theta_n \leq 1/2^k} f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta = \sum_{v=2^k}^{\infty} \int_{1/v+1 < \theta_n \leq 1/v} f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta \leq \\ \leq \sum_{v=2^k}^{\infty} K(v+1)^{\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \int_{1/v+1 < \theta_n \leq 1/v} f(\theta_m) d\theta. \end{array} \right.$$

As $1/v$ and $1/v+1$ both are rationals of order 1 and as

$$mV \left\{ \theta; \frac{1}{v+1} < \theta_n \leq \frac{1}{v} \right\} \leq \frac{2}{v(v+1)} \quad (\text{cf. [4]; (8a)})$$

defining $\bar{m}(x) = mV \{ \theta; 1/v+1 < \theta_n \leq 1/v; \theta_m \leq x \}$ we get:

$$(26) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \int_{1/v+1 < \theta_n \leq 1/v} f(\theta_m) d\theta = \int_0^1 f(x) \frac{d\bar{m}(x)}{dx} dx = mV \left\{ \theta; \frac{1}{v+1} < \theta_n \leq \frac{1}{v} \right\} \times \\ \left\{ \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx + \int_0^1 f(x) \delta_{15} A e^{-\alpha\sqrt{m-n-1}} dx \right\} \leq \frac{2(P+2PA)}{v(v+1)}. \end{array} \right.$$

By (25) and (26) we have:

$$(27) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \int_{\theta_n \leq \varepsilon_k} f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta \leq \sum_{v=2^k}^{\infty} \frac{2K(P+2PA)}{v(v+1)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \leq 2K(P+2PA) \int_{2^{1k}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{y^{1\frac{1}{2}}} dy \leq \\ \leq \frac{4K(P+2PA)}{2^{1k}}. \end{array} \right.$$

As $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 1/2^{1k}$ converges we get by (27)

$$(28) \quad \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N-1} \sum_{\substack{m=M+2 \\ m>n}}^{M+N} \int_{\theta_n \leq \varepsilon_k} f(\theta_n) f(\theta_m) d\theta \leq K_4N,$$

K_4 being a constant only depending on $f(x)$.

6. Combination of the results (9), (11), (12), (16), (17), (24) and (28) proves lemma II.

B. Consider the case that $f(x) \leq 0$.

Put

$$g(x) \equiv -f(x);$$

as $g(x) \geq 0$ lemma II is valid for the function $g(x)$.

$$\text{As } \left\{ \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} f(\theta_n) - \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx \right\}^2 = \left\{ \sum_{n=M+1}^{M+N} g(\theta_n) - \int_0^1 \frac{g(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx \right\}^2$$

lemma II is valid for the function $f(x)$ too.

III. Applications

Applying a theorem of I. S. GÅL and J. F. KOKSMA [1] (cf. [4]; lemma VII) on lemma II we get the following

Theorem I: *Let $f(x)$ be a real function defined on $(0,1)$, satisfying the conditions of lemma II.*

Then for almost all θ we have:

$$(29) \quad \sum_{n=1}^N f(\theta_n) - N \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx = o(N^{\frac{1}{2}} \log^{\frac{3+\varepsilon}{2}} N).$$

We give some applications.

a) Put $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^{\frac{1}{2}-\beta}}$. Then for almost all θ we have:

$$(30) \quad \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{\theta_n^{\frac{1}{2}-\beta}} - N \int_0^1 \frac{1}{x^{\frac{1}{2}-\beta}(1+x) \log 2} dx = o(N^{\frac{1}{2}} \log^{\frac{3+\varepsilon}{2}} N).$$

b) Put $f(x) = \log x$. Then for almost all θ we have:

$$(31) \quad \sum_{n=1}^N \log(\theta_n) - N \int_0^1 \frac{\log x}{(1+x) \log 2} dx = o(N^{\frac{1}{2}} \log^{\frac{3+\varepsilon}{2}} N).$$

c) By the relation (4a) the number a_{n+1} is, for an irrational θ , completely defined by the number θ_n . Now, let be given a positive function $f(p)$ of the positive integer p such that $f(p) \leq K p^{\frac{1}{2}-\beta}$ (K and β being positive constants).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{As } f(a_{n+1}) &= f\left(\left[\frac{1}{\theta_n}\right]\right) \text{ and as } \int_0^1 \frac{f\left(\left[\frac{1}{x}\right]\right)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx = \\ &= \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} \int_{1/p+1}^{1/p} \frac{f(p)}{(1+x) \log 2} dx = \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} f(p) \frac{\log \left(1 + \frac{1}{p(p+2)}\right)}{\log 2} \end{aligned}$$

we have for almost all θ :

$$(32) \quad \sum_{n=1}^N f(a_n) - N \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} f(p) \frac{\log \left(1 + \frac{1}{p(p+2)} \right)}{\log 2} = o(N^{\frac{1}{2}} \log^{\frac{3+\varepsilon}{2}} N).$$

Putting $f(p) = \log p$ we get:

$$(33) \quad \sum_{n=1}^N \log a_n - N \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} \log \left(1 + \frac{1}{p(p+2)} \right)^{\frac{\log p}{\log 2}} = o(N^{\frac{1}{2}} \log^{\frac{3+\varepsilon}{2}} N)$$

for almost all θ .

The last result we can write otherwise as follows:

$$(34) \quad \sqrt[N]{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_N} = \prod_{p=1}^{\infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p(p+2)} \right)^{\frac{\log p}{\log 2}} + o(N^{-\frac{1}{2}} \log^{\frac{3+\varepsilon}{2}} N)$$

for almost all θ .

(34) is a refinement of a theorem of A. KHINTCHINE (cf. [2]; p. 376).

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